



**Tuesday, April 4, 2017 2:00 p.m.**  
**House Room D, General Assembly Building**  
**Meeting Summary**

The Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS) held its first meeting of the 2017 Interim on Tuesday, April 4, in Richmond. Delegate Rich Anderson, chairman of JCOTS, called the meeting to order.

The meeting began with a teleconference presentation by Delegate Bob Marshall regarding HB 2459, which was tabled and referred to JCOTS by the House Committee for Courts of Justice during the 2017 session. The bill prevents the sale to a minor of a cellular or wireless telecommunications device that can capture photos. Delegate Marshall stated that the intent of the bill is to remove just one avenue by which minors can obtain picture taking and messaging devices that connect to the Internet without the use of Wi-Fi. Delegate Marshall related three stories of minors who were victims of cyberbullying or sexual harassment as a result of obtaining cell phones without parental consent. He cited Pew Research Center findings from 2009 that suggest that some 70% of minors with phones obtained without parental consent engage in sexting or are victims of cyberbullying but that that number falls sharply when the phone is obtained with parental consent.

Following the presentation, JCOTS members voiced general questions and concerns about the bill. Discussion focused on the prevalence of Internet capacity in modern electronics, the difficulty of keeping pace with modern technology, and the unintended harm that this legislation would have on emancipated minors. Delegate Marshall and JCOTS members agreed that a staff-led meeting with relevant stakeholders, including cell phone providers and retailers, JCOTS members, and other interested parties, is the best path forward to understanding and addressing the problem.

Staff next presented a proposed JCOTS work plan for the 2016 Interim. There are four main proposed topics. The first is Delegate Marshall's bill, which staff proposed convening a work group of stakeholders to discuss. The second is a study of collaboration among Virginia research institutions and the private sector to coordinate cutting-edge technology research and development with funding and assistance from research institutions. Members pointed out that there is a need to include workforce development in the study and that the study group should learn from the obstacles faced by the cybersecurity subcommittee. Members noted that the Virginia Research Investment Committee was studying a similar topic and staff should connect with them to avoid duplicative efforts and explore collaboration.

The third and fourth study topics focus on aerospace development in the Commonwealth. The third study topic will look at Denbigh High School's aviation academy. Staff proposed a staff-led work group to focus on how to use the school's aviation academy as a statewide model. The fourth study topic is an in-depth review of the Commonwealth's interpretation of federal laws and regulations that affect the aerospace repair and maintenance industry. Because the regulatory

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process is so burdensome and airplane repair taxes are so high in Virginia, there are few available options for owners seeking maintenance work on their airplanes. Some airplane owners even report it being cheaper to fly to Illinois to obtain repairs rather than staying in Virginia. The proposed subcommittee will analyze why Virginia's system is less accessible than those in some other states and how to promote the industry.

Following the staff report, a member asked about authentication of electronic government documents, which had been considered by SB 531 (2016). Members expressed interest in studying the topic and avoiding duplicative efforts being taken by the Department of Health Professions.

Next, Lisa Wallmeyer of the Division of Legislative Services reported on HJ 97/SJ 97 (2016), which directed JCOTS to create a report entitled "A Blueprint for Growth of the Virginia Aviation and Aerospace Industry." Ms. Wallmeyer gave an overview of the findings in the report, along with print copies. Multiple members noted that the report was excellent, thorough, and represented an important first step for the Commonwealth's aerospace industry. The next step is to bring the report to House and Senate leadership to create legislation to act on the report's findings, with a primary focus on creating a centralized, high-level position related to all things aerospace. Chairman Anderson stated that he would work with staff and Senator John Cosgrove to bring the recommendations from the report to leadership. Delegate Kenneth Plum expressed interest in continuing the aerospace study group, and Delegate Cosgrove stated that JCOTS would meet with the study group to decide on the possibility of further study.

In public comment, Bob Matthias from the City of Virginia Beach spoke about the transatlantic fiber-optic and dark fiber cables that are being connected to Virginia Beach from Bilbao, Spain, and Fortaleza, Brazil. Members affirmed their commitment to removing any barriers as needed for Virginia Beach to continue the project in the future.

The meeting was adjourned.